

Charlton Villager

Free by request to residents of Charlton, Charlton City and Charlton Depot

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Thursday-Friday, April 18-19, 2024



Gus Steeves

Gray Tougas watches the sun while her friend Mike Oathout prefers to see what's happening online.

Substation debt exclusion to be decided at polls

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's upcoming municipal election holds more stakes than just electing new leaders of the town, it will also determine the fate of a funding proposal for a new fire department substation continuing a years-long effort to replace the department's aging Station 2.

The question on the ballot will ask voters whether they support a \$13.1 million debt exclusion that would pay for a good portion of the project through borrowing. Debt exclusions allow municipalities to raise taxes above the levy limit during the duration of the loan. That debt would fall off the tax levy once it is repaid. This shouldn't be confused with an override which is a permanent increase to the town's levy limit. The \$13.1 million would be the maximum levy on taxpayers to pay for construction costs and does not include soft costs, such as furniture and equipment, or contingency funding. According to Town Administrator Andrew Golas, the projected impact to the average residential home valued at \$438,045 would be around \$150 in the first year starting in 2028 and reducing each year over the life of the loan. Voters will also be asked to address the total project cost, which includes all expenses up to and beyond the debt exclusion question, during the May 20 annual town meeting.

The new substation is the culmination of two decades of efforts trying to replace or repair the aging Station 2. Charlton officials had proposed a large-scale public safety facility which was voted down in 2020. Since then, officials decided to embrace a more budget-friendly and smaller scale approach leading to the proposal of the new substation. Golas explained the significance of potentially finally moving forward with a replacement plan.

"Station 2 is in a condition beyond repair and regularly floods, causing long-term damage to our fire apparatus. If the town does not address this issue, the building will be condemned, and the town will not have a place to house half of its fire apparatus," said Golas. "The goal of this project is to not only address the need to house apparatus in a new building, but to also address the large response area the town has to cover. The addition of a second manned station will reduce average response time throughout town by two minutes and add a public safety asset within 1.5 miles of all schools in town."

While options of absorbing more of the cost in the general government budget were discussed, Golas said town officials felt it would do too much damage to town operations to cover more of the cost through the existing budget rather than through the proposed debt exclusion. The Town Administrator also confirmed that if the proposal fails there is no "backup plan" at this point and that the town has exhausted its available options for a new fire facility.

The Charlton Fire Department Substation Committee has provided details about the initiative on the town website including design drawings, photos of the condition of the current station, and additional details on the journey from concept to the election vote. An information meeting for the community at large will also be held on Wednesday, April 25 at Charlton Middle School starting at 6 p.m. to allow the public to ask questions and learn more about the project before casting their vote.

Charlton's annual town election is slated for May 4. Information on voting times and locations can be found on the Town Clerk's page of the town Web site. Details about the substation are also available through a link on the Town Administrator's page.

Sturbridge residents turn their eyes to the skies during eclipse

STURBRIDGE — For thousands of years, total eclipses were tagged as signs of apocalypse or at least major changes. Many cultures made significant effort to calculate them, sometimes quite accurately.

Today, we know they're normal happenings caused simply by the way the moon orbits

Earth, periodically lining up with the sun. Instead of days of terror, they're days of community, as hundreds of people found on Sturbridge Common.

Last Monday's eclipse didn't quite reach totality in our region, just about 90 percent. The line of totality ran a northeasterly course across North

America, with the closest section being Ohio, Vermont and northern Maine. Much of that area was cloudy, so enthusiasts had to go to Houlton ME to get good shots of totality.

Southbridge's Rob Caprera made the drive, nearly 400 miles. His most notable memory of it was the fact a couple dozen small jets and turboprop planes flew in to Houlton's airport, stayed long enough to see totality, then flew out. While there, he noted, all of the people with cameras were outside the airport

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Council debates comment and recording rules

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — The council's General Government subcommittee rejected by a 2-2 vote a proposed bylaw amendment that would require all boards to have public comment time on their agenda unless specifically posted as a "workshop" where such comment won't be accepted.

The rejection came not so much due to opposition to the concept, but due to opponents' belief it needs more work.

As Chair Mike Montigny argued, "This is a knee-jerk reaction. It's not ready."

Joe Daou agreed, saying he thinks "we can correct it more," and that it needs "the right language." Steve Kelly said he feels it should have wording that put time limits on such citizen comment, although he voted to support it, as did drafter Mike Marketti. Marketti said he feels the three reading process will give them time to fix wording issues.

The concept to add a new bylaw Section 3-111 (with some discussion it should be elsewhere in that chapter) came up as a response to an April 4 Board of Health meeting regarding the ongoing trash transition in which some audience members tried to ask questions and were not allowed to. Then-Chair Dan Grabowski (who has since resigned) said at the time he intended the meeting to be a board-only discussion. At that time, Derek Julian pointed out it should have been posted that way, but wasn't.

Daou said the prior meeting (March 28) had been a public hearing at which many citizens spoke, some a couple of times, and he thought Grabowski intended April 4 as a meeting to make a decision on issues raised then. But that meeting turned into a "war back and forth between all of them," he noted.

Montigny said he saw the proposal as coming from "a place where people are upset at one person, and the problem has been solved by that person." Under Open Meeting Law, a board chair does have power to decide if and when people can speak, although the Attorney General also recommends having written policies regarding public comment, he added.

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Courtesy — Julie Winans

AJ Congdon and his family. A family fun day fundraiser for AJ will be held on April 27 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Fundraiser to support AJ Strong

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Members of the Dudley and Charlton communities are being called to come together on April 27 to support the family of AJ Congdon, a student and athlete who has been diagnosed with an inoperable cancerous brain tumor in September.

The second grader attends Dudley Elementary School and has participated in football as a member of the Dudley-Charlton Rams as well as baseball. Described as "kind and funny" and a "ray of sunshine" by friends, teachers, and family, Congdon has been se-

lected as a candidate for a clinical trial to help alleviate his condition, but he can't do it alone. Supporters have started the movement AJ Strong and organized a GoFundMe campaign and fundraising event to help the family with their expenses.

Julie Winans, a music teacher at Dudley Elementary School, teamed up with AJ's teacher Christine Taylor, the school's nurse Kathy Wilson, adjustment counselor Vanessa Muscente, and paraprofessional Kelly Finizza to help lead the fundraising event which will be held at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, where

Turn To **AJ STRONG** page **A13**

Charlton celebrates Earth Day April 27

CHARLTON — Charlton residents are invited to help clean up the Town for Earth Day 2024. The roads are strewn with trash, so show your appreciation for the planet by cleaning up a mile (or two!) on Saturday April 27.

Online registration begins April 1st at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee>. Sign-up for a road, or portion of a road, or sign up in person the morning of the event. Beginning at 8 a.m., road volunteers may pick up yellow bags, gloves, safety vests, boxes of water, and pickers on the Town Common. Supplies courtesy of a grant from The Last Green Valley and from donations from The Charlton Recreation Commission, and several Earth Fest Planning Group members. A limited supply of pickers is available, one per family/group. Please reuse pickers from previous years if you have them.

The Earth Day Committee urges volunteers to use caution when picking up roadside trash. Use gloves and wear bright clothing or a safety vest. Never open containers containing unknown substances. If you find needles or syringes, contact the Police for disposal; do not touch or place them in bags with other refuse. Citizens can bring the filled bags to the dumpster, donated by Casella Waste, behind Town Hall.

The Charlton Middle School held its annual design contest focused on this year's Earth Day theme, Planet vs. Plastics. Sixth-grader Lia Nguyen created the winning tee shirt design (attached). These tee shirts, which are donated by Millennium Power Company, are available on a first come, first serve basis, one per person.



style choices and teach ways to help the earth, its animals, and plants.

Vendors include AnnieMike's Honey Blessings Farm, the Buffumville Army Corps of Engineers,

Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary, Charlton Business Alliance, Charlton Conservation Commission, Charlton Garden Club, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Cornerstone Bank, Eric's Aviaries, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, The Last Green Valley, Local 4 Life, the Opacum Land Trust, Second Chance Mobile Adoption, and the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Envirothon Club.

The Grey Whiskey Pickers and Wormtown Mugwumps, Worcester's premier purveyors of jug band music, will provide live musical entertainment. The event will also feature several food trucks, including No Coast Kitchen, Timeless Fry & Grill, 3 Kings BBQ, The Toasted Roasters, Suzie Q's Ice Cream, and more.

Volunteers also have an opportunity to win raffle prizes donated by Treehouse Brewery and Cornerstone Bank.

Thanks to the Charlton Recreation Commission, Cornerstone Bank, Millennium Power, and Ted's Package Store for sponsoring this year's event. The Last Green Valley has provided financial support for Charlton's Earth Day Fest.

Southbridge Public Schools receives grant to support STEM career learning

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Public Schools has received a grant from the One8 Foundation to offer Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum to students. This will better prepare students for school and career success in the computer programming field. "Computer science and cybersecurity are growing industries nationwide," said Donna Zannelli, the STEM coordinator for Southbridge Public Schools. "This program will give students a step up in college, where it's important to have foundational knowledge." PLTW is a nonprofit organization that provides coursework in computer science, engineering and biomedical science to more than 12,000 schools nationwide. This grant will support teacher development and purchase of course materials and equipment. "The addition of PLTW courses will be yet another opportunity to provide Southbridge stu-

dents with an engaging, rigorous curriculum that will give them greater opportunities post-high school," said Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey A. Villar. Since 2017, the One8 Foundation alongside the Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council, the Workforce Skills Cabinet and the Massachusetts Life Science Center has provided support to expand PLTW programming for students in the Commonwealth. "Students are hungry for experiences that allow them to apply what they are learning to solve real-world, meaningful problems. Providing equitable access to hands-on applied learning programs that deliver academic gains while building critical thinking and complex problem-solving skills ensures students are engaged and interested in school and prepared for success in this ever-changing world," said Joanna Jacobson, President of the One8 Foundation.

TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

Rutland, MA
28th Annual Town Wide Yard Sale
 Sat. April 27
200+ participants

Maps at town lines and on Common (Rts 122A and 56) starting at 7:15 AM
Rain or Shine ~ Join the Fun!

Charlton will continue its Earth Day celebration with Earth Fest, to be held on the Town Common from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the Fest will be moved inside to Dexter Hall on the second floor of the Charlton Public Library. A variety of vendors will promote environmentally sustainable life-

Yard Sale/House Downsizing
Saturday, April 27, 9am-3pm
240 HAMILTON ST. SOUTHBRIDGE

Clearing out. First of two yard sales. Lots of craft and paper supplies for sewing, scrapbooking, stamping; fabrics such as cottons felt, and fleece; trims, ribbons; books; office supplies; baskets; linens; holiday decorations; collectibles; and decor for country, primitive, and Americana.



Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Dante and I love wrestling!!!!

Dante is a sweet, affectionate young man who loves hugs. He is great at interpreting facial expressions and identifying emotions. Dante has a strong interest in wrestling and is the proud owner of several wrestling action figures that he spends a great deal of time playing with. He also loves playing video games, listening to music, and dancing. Dante enjoys playing with other children and caring for the goats and the donkey who belong to his residential care facility. He also enjoys playing on the swings and riding on scooters outdoors.

Dante is navigating the complexities of middle school with the support of an IEP. Dante has a great relationship with staff and is working on developing strong peer relationships.

Dante's social worker is looking for a devoted family who will provide him with the love and guidance he needs. Interested families need to be firmly committed to providing appropriate ethnic and cultural role models and information with respect to his birth cultures which includes discussing racism and discrimination. Developing and fostering a relationship with his big brother and former foster family is very important, this includes calls and visits.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7323>

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD
 None

CHARLTON
 \$815,000, 232 Partridge Hill Rd, Menard Lt, and Menard, Kathleen A, to Grotton, Erik, and Grotton, Donna.
 \$594,000, 87 Oxford Rd, Sokowaski, Linda, to Miller, Crystal.
 \$543,500, 4 Potter Village Cross Rd, Desjardins, Jason R, and Desjardins, Cara A, to Taylor, Kimberly.
 \$439,900, 230 Southbridge Rd, Federal Natl Mtg Assn, to Laperle, Constance, and Carpenter, Robert.
 \$344,000, 42 N Sturbridge Rd #A, Leblanc, Ronald, to Leblanc, Daniel J.

HOLLAND
 None

SOUTHBRIDGE
 \$325,000, 301 Torrey Rd, Hernandez, Edgar J, and Hernandez, Linda R, to Paoella, George, and Coulter, Erin.
 \$299,000, 17 Dresser St, Ta, Ngaem T, to Mercado, Daniel, and Mercado, Carlos.

STURBRIDGE
 \$500,000, 3 Goodrich Rd, Bunn, Joshua L, to Magalhaes, Raphael, and Magalhaes, Mackenzie T.
 \$309,000, 85 Shepard Rd, Metras, Paula J, to Katinas, Nathan, and Danna, Mindy.
 \$249,900, 7 Crescent Way #302, Potmesil, Edward, and Bockus, Kimberly, to Zwiebel, William L.

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OSV researchers discuss clothes at Historical Society

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — In the 19th century, clothing was not a mass-market thing, and much of it was far more colorful, comfortable and durable than we think.

Old Sturbridge Village researchers Rebecca Beale and Derek Heidemann brought their fascination with old clothing to the Southbridge Historical Society last week, which started a rotating display of period garments during Covid. Beale and Heidemann recently wrote a book about their project called Needle & Thread, which they hope will be the first of several.

Beale said a lot of their information comes from private journals, often by women like ZH Guernsey, a Vermont seamstress who trained others. They depict a “constant cycle” of people making things for their families, sometimes not exactly fun.

Reading from Lucy Larkin’s journal of that girl’s experience making clothes for her father and griping,

“With that task before me, it hardly seemed life was worth living,” Beale



Gus Steeves

Rebecca Beale, left, talks to Arthur Martin while Derek Heidemann, background, talks to Jim O'Brien after their presentation. The very large kerchief on the table could have been worn by men or women, albeit differently. Men wrapped it around their neck; women used it as a headscarf.

said she “pictured my daughter saying this in the most whiny voice.” But she noted clothes then had lots of pieces and layers, and “you start feeling Lucy’s despair,” and start thinking “How am I going to do that?”

In practice, clothes making wasn’t a solo job, but a community enterprise, she noted. Skilled people taught boys and girls to sew, and the families could also pay skilled neighbors and people with specialized equipment to do certain things when needed.

“There was no shame in the 19th century about going out in mended

clothing as long as it was neatly mended,” she said.

That observation prompted a Jim O'Brien to recall how clothing attitudes have changed even in his lifetime. As a child, he went to Red Sox games “in a coat and tie” and adults “probably wouldn’t go to a meeting in jeans and sneakers.” But today, almost everyone does; clothing has become much more casual. Someone else noted how covid even promoted people going out in what were previously seen as pajama pants.

Beale said several books helped promote clothes-making skills



Gus Steeves

Rebecca Beale displays the colorful child’s dress of Edward Perry, born 1843 in Lewiston, Maine. Boys and girls both wore such dresses until ages 3-5.

and fashion in the early 1800s. One of the more famous was the British “Workwoman’s Guide” of 1838, which included charts to measure stitches, how to choose fabrics, fashion sketches and other things. She noted the emphasis then was “all about balance” of pleats, layers, puffed shoulders and other elements that would “give the illusion of that X” (the broad shoulder, narrow waist, wide skirt ideal for women then).

“There were a lot of fashion changes happening for men and women in a relatively short time,” she noted.

But one common feature of the period, despite our perception of Victorianism as drab, was “the very vibrant colors they were wearing on a daily basis.” It was “a crazy period in terms of aesthetics,” with people commonly mixing colors and patterns in ways we might see as clashing, she added.

Heidemann said that politics sometimes changed fabric sources. During the War of 1812, US textiles dominated, but right afterward “all

the stuff that’s waiting floods the American market.” Beale agreed noting George Washington made a point of doing events in an outfit of American homespun; “fashion says a lot about your identity.”

Steve Brady added that similar changes happened with other wars. During World War II, “nobody wanted to look like they were wasting [fabric]” and there were large clothing and fabric recycling drives.

“Societal pressure to conform to prevailing norms” was strong in the 1830s, Heidemann said. “...Now society says com-

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SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests from April 1-15.

Jennifer M. Prue, age 40, of Worcester was arrested on April 1 for Possession of a Class A Drug and in connection with a warrant.

A 49-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 1 for Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official and Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Nicholas Jon Guasp, age 20, of Southbridge was arrested on April 2 in connection with a warrant issued for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Sheena Rae Dibenedetto-Petukhov, age 37, of Worcester was arrested on April 6 for Possession of a Class B Drug and in connection with multiple warrants.

Allison P. Murray, age 38, of Holland was arrested on April 6 for Distribution of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense) and multiple counts of drug possession.

A 37-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 6 for Assault & Battery (simple).

Yolimar Suarez Lopez, age 31, of Southbridge was arrested on April 7 for Domestic Assault and Battery (Intimate Relationship).

A 23-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 7 for Speeding and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

A 39-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on April 9 for multiple counts of operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, and multiple Number Plate Violations to

Conceal Identification.

Kaylin Joan Denham-Rivers, age 22, of Webster was arrested on April 9 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Isaac Jordan Penedo, age 20, of Southbridge was arrested on April 11 for Domestic Assault and Battery (Intimate Relationship), Strangulation or Suffocation, Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official, and Malicious Destruction of Property valued at less than \$1,200.

Richard Grondin, age 57, of Millbury was arrested on April 12 in connection with a warrant issued for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.

Isaias Velasco, Jr., age 23, of Southbridge was arrested on April 13 for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest. Alexandra Saez, age 18, of Southbridge was arrested during the same incident for Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest, and multiple counts of Assault & Battery on a Police Officer.

A 62-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on April 13 for

Domestic Assault and Battery (Intimate Relationship) and Strangulation or Suffocation.

A 25-year-old male from Lawrence was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 14 for Leaving the Scene of Personal Injury and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

A 30-year-old from Southbridge was also issued a summons during the same incident for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Interfering with a Police Officer.

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SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 27th
from 8AM to 12 PM

Friends of St. Louis Yard Sale

Located in the Church parking lot
Cleaning out? Save you item that are clean & in working order to donate to our yard sale.

Rent a space - \$10 Need a table - Additional \$20

We are accepting donations which can be dropped off at the church hall.

Saturday, April 20, from 8AM to Noon
Thursday, April 25 from 4 to 6PM
Friday, April 26 from 4 to 6PM

Please Note: We cannot accept large furniture, bedding or electronics.
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CMS Chamber announces May offerings including networking, A.I. and meat

STURBRIDGE — Networking at Old Sturbridge Village, a seminar on Artificial Intelligence and a Meat Raffle featuring meats from B.T.'s Smokehouse will be offered by the Chamber of Central Mass South in May, and all are welcome to join in.

The Chamber's Fun at Five networking event takes place at the newly renovated Ox & Yoke Mercantile and Café at Old Sturbridge Village on May 1. Attendees will enjoy delicious sweet and savory offerings including the Village's famous signature cookies, get a peek behind the scenes at OSV and learn about what the Village has planned for the year ahead. In addition, there will be games, raffles, prizes, and of course, networking. Mingle and make connections with local professionals in a relaxed atmosphere. Are you new to networking or find it intimidating? Give us a ring and we'll be happy to introduce you to our Members at these events which are held monthly at great local venues. Guests may register for Fun at Five by calling

the Chamber office at 508-347-2761. The cost to attend is \$12 for CMS Chamber Members who pre-register, \$15 at the door, or \$20 for non-Members. As the name suggests, the Fun always starts at 5:00pm. The Chamber is grateful to Dexter-Russell for sponsoring May's Fun at Five at OSV.

On the evening of May 8, the Chamber shines light on AI. Few things have been hyped as much as Artificial Intelligence. However, behind all that hype, many business owners are left wondering if, when and how AI is going to impact their business. In this highly interactive session presented by an expert in the field, attendees will be given some context on where AI is today, where it is going in the near future and most importantly how it can be used in business, with lots of time for your questions. The Chamber's Artificial Intelligence Seminar will be presented by Delcie Bean, Founder and CEO of Paragus I.T., one of the most successful, fastest-growing IT firms in the region. This evening session will

be held in Craft's Hall at The Publick House Historic Inn from 5:30-7 p.m. and features complimentary hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. Space is limited. Give the Chamber a call today to reserve your seat.

Just in time for grilling season, the Chamber invites you to a Meat Raffle to be held on Sunday, May 19 from 3-6 p.m. at the Charlton Beagle Club. Meats to be raffled include, but are not limited to steaks, roasts, ribs, smoked ham, brisket, chicken, hamburger, and hot dogs. There will be six sizzling rounds with six meats and each round will feature a meat smoked by CMS Chamber member business B.T.'s Smokehouse! The afternoon event will also include a 50-50 Raffle, Door Prize Raffle, and Gift Basket Raffle. Food and beverages will be provided by the Beagle Club. All are welcome and no RSVP is needed.

Visit the Events calendar at cms-chamber.org to find more details on these events and many more offered

by local Chamber Members. Feel free to call the Chamber office if you have questions or to register for events. If it is time for you to grow your business and join a passionate and engaged business community, contact the Chamber of Central Mass South to learn about the benefits of membership. Your local Chamber is grateful to you for Keeping it Local in every season. Supporting the businesses that make our neighborhoods special creates jobs, strengthens our local economy and preserves the unique qualities of our communities.

VILLAGER ALMANAC OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBIDGE TOWN HALL
Monday-Wednesday:
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200
Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
..... 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday..... Closed

visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information. Individual offices may vary
PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)
For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial 911
FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777

SCHOOLS
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
..... (508) 943-6888
Charlton Elementary School
..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435
Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
..... (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108
Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00-12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00-12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00-12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
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Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church**
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Pastor Dan Maketansky

Charlton City UMC launches new Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church is excited to announce a new quarterly series: Dynamic Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show. The first show will be May 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Watch out for dates for future shows every quarter. Each show will be jam-packed with vendors and will feature baked goods and drinks. Any interested vendors of collectibles, cards, or crafts can contact Joe Dupont at joedupont@dynamiccardcollectors.com for this or future shows.

The May 4 show will feature rare Pokemon cards from Dynamic Card Collectors; comics and toys from Remember that Collectibles; a variety of trading card game cards from Wicked East Coasters and Toyland Treasures; Epicure products for food service from Barbara's Epic Eats; Bee Jewelry and Scarves; essential oils and natural wellness products and tips; handmade greeting cards; fly fishing ties; Sweet Leilani Crafts & SassiePastries; anime/gaming/kawaii merchandise from Tokkishi; and many, many more. Hope to see you there!

Charlton City UMC hosting roast pork supper Saturday

CHARLTON — The Men's Club is hosting a Roast Pork dinner at Charlton City United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors.

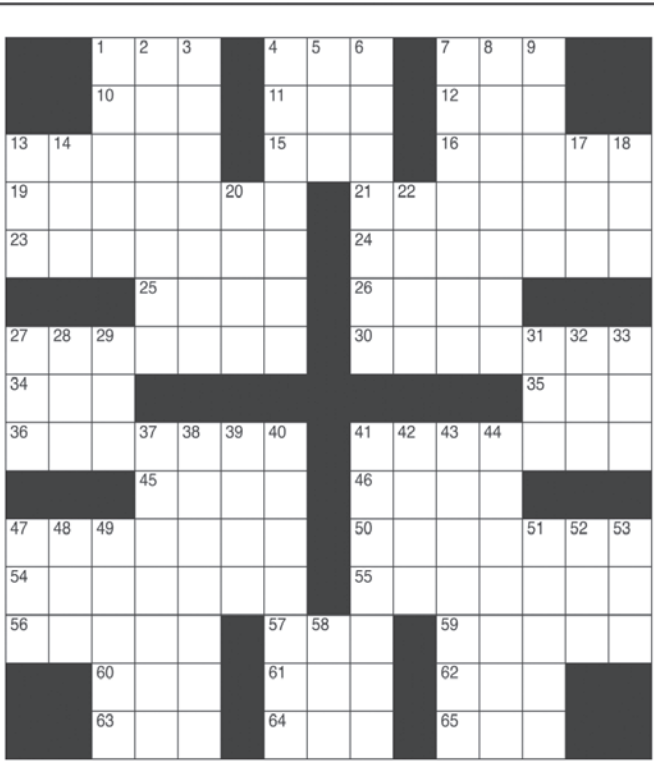
A tasty roast pork with potatoes, vegetables, and your choice of beverage, along with a delectable dessert, will be served. As always there will be continuous serving and take-out. Adults \$15, children six to 12 \$7, children five and under free. Take out orders available.

Tickets may be purchased at the door although reservations are appreciated. Call the church office at (508) 248-7379 for information and reservations. The building is handicap accessible with ample parking.

Joshua Hyde Public Library to host Community Puzzle Swap

STURBRIDGE — Join the library on Tuesday, April 30 from 3 to 6 p.m. for the very popular Community Puzzle Swap. Love puzzles? Come share. Donate beforehand or on the day of the swap. Bring your own, take one home. Puzzles of all sizes.

Want to put a puzzle together? There will be puzzles available during the swap to work on cooperatively during this time. You do not need to bring a puzzle or take one home to participate in the activity.

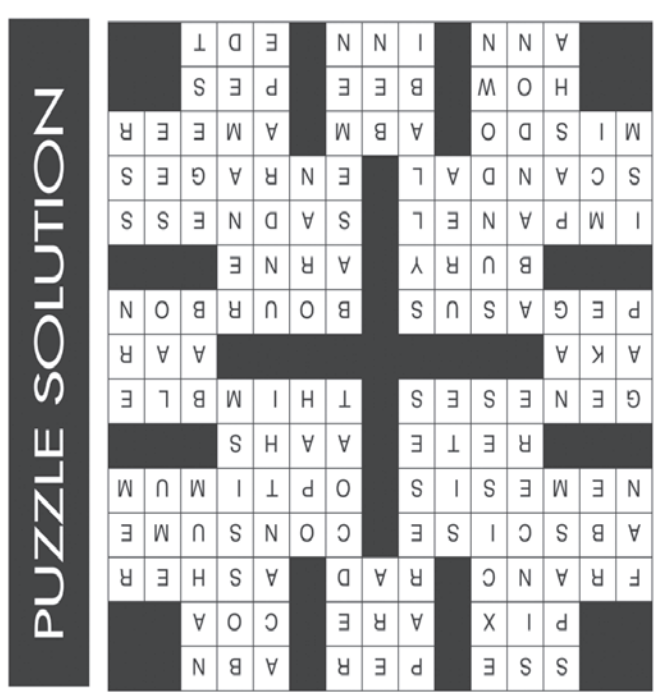


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. For each
- 7. Airborne (abbr.)
- 10. Photographs
- 11. They ___
- 12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- 13. Monetary unit
- 15. Cool!
- 16. A son of Jacob
- 19. Cut off
- 21. Devour
- 23. Agent of one's downfall
- 24. Best
- 25. Network of nerves
- 26. Partner to "oohs"
- 27. Origins
- 30. Sewing utensil
- 34. Alias
- 35. Swiss river
- 36. Greek mythological figure
- 41. Type of whiskey
- 45. Lay to rest
- 46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 47. Select jury
- 50. Feeling
- 54. Action regarded as morally wrong
- 55. Makes angry
- 56. Act incorrectly
- 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
- 60. To what degree
- 61. Buzzing insect
- 62. The human foot
- 63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
- 64. A place to stay
- 65. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. Earnest
- 3. Cuts out surgically
- 4. Can't move
- 5. Baseball stat
- 6. British soldier
- 7. Traditional medicine plants
- 8. Political party controlled by managers
- 9. Hebrew prophet
- 13. Supporter
- 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Liberty Mutual mascot
- 18. Georgia rockers
- 20. A place where building is done
- 22. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 27. Clothing retailer
- 28. Supplement with difficulty
- 29. Annoy constantly
- 31. Founder of Babism
- 32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
- 33. Sea eagle
- 37. Leave behind
- 38. Time of day
- 39. Colorless crystalline compound
- 40. They lay out course requirements
- 41. A diamond has three
- 42. Algerian coastal city
- 43. Remove cover
- 44. Rechristened
- 47. Distinctive practice
- 48. Defunct phone company
- 49. Turkish officer of high rank
- 51. Eliminate from the body
- 52. Witness
- 53. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 58. Founding Father Franklin



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Nurse educators learn about hardwiring diversity, equity, & inclusion into clinical teaching

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty, in photo from left, Dr. Adelina Healy, DNP, MSN, RN, Professor Barbara Martel, BSN, RN, and Professor Cheryl Cahill, MSN Ed, RN and not in photo Dr. Ana Liza Olivar, EdD, MSN, RN, CRRN, all completed the MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing) Spring Conference on Friday, April 12 at the Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross, all earning five contact hours. The conference was “Hardwiring Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion into Clinical Teaching.”

The purpose of the program is to help prepare practice-ready graduates by providing a framework for their curriculum. The program offered educators an adapted model of clinical judgment with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles that can be woven into their clinical teaching. Discussed were clear principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion which are imperative to prepare a nursing workforce to care holistically for diverse populations.

The speakers were Janet Monagle PhD, RN, CNE SON Director of Quality and Compliance at Northeastern University, Lisa Gonzales, MSN, RN, Professor of Nursing, College of Southern Maryland, and Rachael Salguero PhD, RN-BC, CNEI Instructor, Track Coordinator of Nursing Education Department of Labor Grant, MGH Institute of Health Professions.

Conference learning objectives included the discussion of the need for



modification of the clinical judgment model and the addition of diversity, equity and inclusion principles, an exploration of clinical education techniques to promote clinical judgments and keep DEI principles at the forefront, an analysis of how learning can be incorporated to enhance teaching practices, and an examination of a method to promote clinical judgment

teaching by clinical faculty.

About MARILN

The Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing (MARILN) is a constituent of the National League for Nursing. MARILN aims to improve nursing at hospitals, public health, and other organized nursing services by encouraging nursing through nursing education and awarding scholarships to students in nursing programs to encourage their education.

About Bay Path

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy runs a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health, Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn). The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org).

Officials offer earthquake safety tips

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — After residents throughout central Massachusetts felt the effects of an earthquake centered in New Jersey this month, emergency officials have released tips for preparing your home for tremors.

On April 5, a 4.8 magnitude earthquake, centered in Lebanon, N.J., was felt as far away as New Hampshire. Residents in several Worcester County towns, despite being over 200 miles from the epicenter, reported feeling tremors from the quake.

No significant damage was reported in Massachusetts as a result of the quake.

For emergency officials, earthquakes present several major challenges due to their unpredictable nature. Unlike thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and winter storms, which trigger advance alerts when conditions are favorable for such events, earthquakes generally strike infrequently and without warning.

“Initial mild shaking may strengthen and become extremely strong within seconds. Additional earthquakes, called aftershocks, may occur for hours, days, or even months,” read a statement released by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Most aftershocks are smaller than the initial earthquake, but larger magnitude aftershocks can also occur, officials warned. Moreover, earthquakes can happen at any time of the year, and even though the northeast sees far fewer quakes than out west, it’s advisable for residents to prepare their homes, MEMA leaders said.

“Massachusetts is located in a moderate earthquake zone. Although these quakes typically cause only insignificant or mild damage, larger earthquakes are possible, and could cause serious damage to build-

ings and public infrastructure,” the MEMA statement read. “Because of this, it is important to know some simple safety rules if the ground begins to shake.”

During an earthquake, drop to the ground and cover your head and neck with your arms, experts said.

“Stay away from glass, windows, doors, and items that could fall,” the MEMA statement read.

Residents are also urged to create a family emergency plan, not just for earthquakes but all weather incidents and manmade emergencies.

“Identify safe places to take cover, such as under a sturdy piece of furniture in your home, office, or school,” the MEMA statement read. “Practice how to ‘Drop, Cover, and Hold On,’ and participate in the Great Northeast Shakeout each October (earthquake drills).”

Residents can also prepare their homes for quakes by taking the following steps: assemble an emergency kit; fasten bookcases and freestanding shelving to walls; and place large, heavy, or fragile objects on lower shelves.

Additionally, residents should know the locations of electricity, gas, and water switches and valves—and how to shut them off.

If you are outside during an earthquake, move away from buildings, streetlights, trees, and utility wires. If you are inside a vehicle, pull to the side of the road and stay in the vehicle until the earthquake is over. Do not stop under overpasses or power lines.

Following an earthquake, residents are encouraged to check chimneys for visual damage and have a professional inspect the chimney for internal damage before lighting a fire.

Residents are also encouraged to sign up for municipal alerts and updates from local public safety agencies.

To learn more about preparation tips, visit www.mass.gov.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Rediscovering the lost art of manners

In an era characterized by hurried interactions and digital communication, it's not uncommon to hear lamentations about the decline of manners in modern society. Indeed, it often seems that the gracious etiquette of our ancestors has been relegated to the annals of history. Perhaps it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the timeless wisdom embodied by the manners of yesterday.

Our ancestors lived in a world where courtesy and respect were not mere niceties, but fundamental principles that governed social interactions. Whether it was a firm handshake, a heartfelt expression of gratitude, or a genteel gesture of chivalry, manners served as the currency of civility.

One need only look to the etiquette manuals of bygone eras to gain insight into the elaborate codes of conduct that governed everyday life. From the intricacies of formal dining to the protocols of courtship, these guides offered a blueprint for navigating the complexities of social interaction with grace and poise. Moreover, they underscored the importance of empathy and consideration for others.

In contrast, the frenetic pace of modern life has often led to a blurring of boundaries and a loss of interpersonal decorum. In our quest for efficiency and convenience, we risk sacrificing the human connection that lies at the heart of meaningful communication. The rise of digital communication, while undeniably convenient, has also eroded the nuances of face-to-face interaction, leading to a decline in empathy and understanding.

Furthermore, the erosion of traditional social structures has contributed to a sense of individualism that often prioritizes self-interest over communal harmony. In an increasingly atomized society, the concept of manners can seem antiquated, relegated to the realm of quaint nostalgia rather than a relevant guiding principle for modern life.

Just as the customs of our ancestors evolved in response to the challenges of their time, so too can we adapt and redefine the concept of manners for the 21st century. Rather than lamenting the loss of a bygone era, we can draw upon its timeless principles to cultivate a culture of respect, empathy, and civility in our interactions with others.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

A note of appreciation

As this will be my last article to you (as I am in the process of moving to Wolfeboro, New Hampshire), I thought extensively about what was worthy of saying as a last word. As I pondered and considered, I realized that what was worthy was the act itself: the act of putting pen to paper (or finger to keyboard or voice to auto type).

Writing to let another person know they matter to you is one of the most important gifts you can offer a person. Commercials bombard us with things we "must" buy and give our loved ones



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY REV. DAWN
M. ADAMS
FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
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BRIMFIELD

to show them we care. The advertisers try to convince us we must spend egregious amounts of money to symbolize our love. Often, though, what the person really needs is not an expensive symbol, but the assurance of those underlying emotions.

As a minister, when I marry people, I pray over and bless the wedding rings that couple gives each other as a sign of their covenantal vows. As part of the worship liturgy, we acknowledge these rings are outward signs of an inward reality. They are not the reality themselves. That is, if a spouse were to lose their ring, the vows that were made would

Turn To PEWS page A12

What should you know about long-term care?



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

We all hope to remain healthy and independent throughout our lives – but life can be unpredictable. If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, would you be financially prepared?

Long-term care encompasses everything from the services of a home health aide to a stay in an assisted living facility to a long residence in a nursing home. You may never need any of these kinds of care, but the odds aren't necessarily in your favor: Someone turning age 65 today has almost a 70 percent chance of needing some type of long-term care services and support in their remaining years, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

And all types of long-term care can involve considerable financial expense. The median annual cost for a home health aide's services is more than \$60,000 per year, and it's more than \$100,000 per year for a private room in a nursing home, according to Genworth, an insurance company. Furthermore, contrary to many people's expectations, Medicare usually pays very little of these costs.

Of course, some people expect their family will be able to take care of their long-term care needs. But this may not be a viable strategy. For one thing, your family members simply may not have the skills needed to give you the type of care you may require. Also, by the time you might need help, your grown children or other family members might not live in your area.

So, you may need to protect yourself and your loved ones from the potential costs of long-term care. Basically, you've got two main choices: You could self-insure, or you could transfer the risk by purchasing some type of long-term care insurance.

If you have considerable financial resources, you might find self-insuring to be attractive, rather than choosing insurance and paying policy premiums. You may wish to keep an emergency savings or investment account that's earmarked exclusively for long-term care to help avoid relying on your other retirement accounts. But self-insuring has two main drawbacks. First, because long-term care can be costly, you might need to plan for a significant amount. And second, it will be quite hard to predict exactly how much money you'll need, because so many variables are involved – your age when you start needing care, interest rates or inflation, the cost of care in your area, the type of care you'll require, the length of time you'll need care, and so on.

As an alternative to self-insuring, you could purchase long-term care insurance, which can provide benefits for home health care, adult day care and assisted living and nursing home facilities. However, you will need to consider the issues attached to long-term care insurance. For one thing, it can be expensive, though the younger you are when you buy your policy, the more affordable it may be. Also, long-term care policies typically require you to wait a certain amount of time before benefits are paid. But policies vary greatly in what they offer, so, if you are thinking of buying this insurance, you'll want to review options and compare benefits and costs.

In any case, by being aware of the potential need for long-term care, its cost, and the ways of paying for it, you'll be able to make the appropriate decisions for your financial situation, your needs and your loved ones.

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This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

TO THE EDITOR

We know what we need to do

To the Editor:

Is there anyone in Charlton who does not know of our desperate need for a fire station?

The manned station on Power Station Road is 66 years old, built in 1958 with an additional leased quonset hut across the street. The unmanned station on North Main Street is 95 years old having been built in 1929 as a Town Highway Barn. It floods regularly and should be condemned and slotted for demolition. I could go on about all the issues associated with this situation, but you have likely already heard them. If you, like me, need to check things out for yourself, this link details all the facts - townofcharlton.net/594/Fire-Department-Substation-Project.

In the past several years, we, the taxpayers of Charlton, have spent a significant amount of money to study and design a solution to our problem. Lots of highly dedicated townspeople and emergency service personnel have worked tirelessly to solve a huge public safety problem, while modernizing and

seeking out the biggest bang for our buck. And yet here we are again getting ready to vote for a third time on a now scaled down project.

I, for one, am embarrassed. I am embarrassed every time I drive by the "headquarters" on Power Station Rd, but even more so when I see the "Station" on North Main Street. This is an untenable situation. And for a town that prides itself on its emergency personnel, we should be ashamed. How can we expect our firefighters to not only risk their lives in a fire for us, but to work in unsafe and unhealthy conditions lacking the space, resources and equipment they need?

Solving this problem will take two more votes. One on the town ballot Saturday, May 4, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Heritage School and a second at Town Meeting Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at Charlton Middle School.

We know what we need to do.

*Pat Stockwell
Charlton*

Join us in supporting Dave Singer for Selectman

To the Editor:

We are pleased to endorse Dave Singer for re-election to the Board of Selectmen in Charlton.

We find him to be hardworking and always willing to listen to both sides of an issue before making a decision. He will stand up for what he believes is in the best interest of the town and we can attest to his dedication, commitment, knowledge and concerns for his constituents.

Having grown up in this town, graduating from Charlton High School and being on committees, boards, elected positions in both the town and the State of Massachusetts, continuous business owners both past and present, we both feel Dave deserves to be re-elected. It's important to remember the character of the town, respect it's history and

traditions as well as being able to balance them with the necessary changes we need as we move forward and Dave has done just that.

To face new challenges that come with a changing world there must be balance with fiscal reality which hardworking residents face every day. Government has many needs just as families do, but all budgets need to be funded on priority to stay balanced. Dave has proven his ability to do just that over the years.

We have worked with Dave on many issues in our many roles over many years and believe he deserves to be re-elected to the Board of Selectmen.

Please vote Dave Singer.

Respectfully,

*Donna & Dave Peters
Charlton*

I hope to earn your support for re-election

To the Editor:

My name is Donald Montville, and I am seeking re-election to the Bay Path (Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District) School Committee. I have been a full-time resident of Charlton since 1983.

I have been a proud member of the Bay Path family for over 39 years. I started teaching at Bay Path in 1985. I finished my educational career as an administrator filling the role of the Vocational Director. As Vocational Director I was responsible for overseeing each of the 22 vocational programs. After retiring, I was elected to the School Committee in 2021.

A former superintendent would always say "this isn't your grandfather's trade school". It is imperative that Bay Path continues to closely monitor existing programs and introduce new career pathways that are of high quality and based on rigorous standards where students are able to develop the academic knowledge, technical skills, and employability skills needed in the 21st century and/or to continue education in their chosen field. I will help to ensure that this happens.

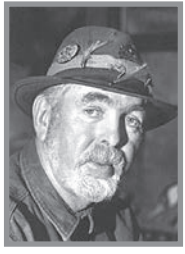
My educational experiences gained from the classroom and administrative level and my knowledge of the Chapter 74 Vocational guidelines, which establishes the rules under which vocational technical education is run in Massachusetts, has helped me as a school committee member. This insight has allowed me to make and support decisions on school policy that will support our teachers and staff, enhance our students' academic and career technical skills and help to keep Bay Path the outstanding Vocational High School that it is. Be assured that I have acted in the best interest of the Charlton residents when policies are set, and the budget is prepared.

Charlton has always been a strong supporter of Bay Path Vocational High School and I now ask that you support me in my efforts to retain my seat on the Bay Path Vocational High School School Committee by voting to re-elect me on Saturday, May 4. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

*Donald Montville
Charlton*

Trout fishing takes center stage



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Trout fishing took center stage for many anglers that enjoyed catching them this past weekend. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club had a good turnout of anglers lined up around their trout pond early, waiting for the 8:00 am opening!



Courtesy

This week's first picture shows Erin Kossuth with a nice rainbow trout she caught at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club annual trout derby this past Saturday.

This week's second picture shows Rene with a nice stringer of rainbow trout he and his fishing partner Ken caught at Wallum Lake opening day last Saturday.



gals.

Wallum Lake opened this past Saturday with an extremely small turnout. The main parking lot was not full at 8 a.m. For those that did attend the opening day at Wallum, fishing was good for most, with many anglers catching their five trout limit. Law enforcement from both Mass. & Rhode Island were on hand early to check for boat registrations and fishing licenses. Safety equipment was also inspected. The weather was cooperating this year, with light winds and favorable temperatures. Unfortunately, very few youngsters were present to enjoy the day. Major rivers and streams should be stocked by now, with the swollen rivers receding from the heavy rain in the last few weeks.

Over the past few months, weather conditions have raised havoc across the country killing many residents and destroying property and wildlife. These weather conditions continue this week across the Midwest, with fires, tornados, flooding, etc.! Unfortunately, it seems as though this will be the norm for our country for years to come because we failed to heed the warnings of Scientist. Global warming?

Cod fishing in Rhode Island waters is improving when the boats can get out. Tautog fishing remains slow, but should blow wide open in a couple of weeks.

Take A Kid fishing & keep Them Rods Bending!

Chocolate. It's the universal symbol of good taste and indulgence. A heart shaped box of hand packed chocolates shows one's affection, just as a rich chocolate dessert serves as the perfect end to a fancy meal. Good chocolate, much like fine wine, is now being chosen by vintage years, elevating the sweet, rich confection to status symbol level.

But what if the delicious sweet treat, long enjoyed by kings and royalty, had even more impressive attributes? What if the dark, creamy candy was actually good for you? While it may seem too incredible to fathom that a guilty conscience is no longer a requisite for indulging in the pleasures of chocolate, it's true! Thanks to medical studies that prove chocolate can be an aid to health, enjoying a chunk of the sweet stuff is now a shameless pleasure! In celebration of chocolate, this week's column will promote the chocolate revolution with a round-up of fun and informative chocolate-ology!

Take Two Bon Bons and Call Me in the Morning: Hershey bars as health food? No, you're not dreaming. Read on for the fascinating facts why chocolate is touted as a valuable health booster!

The Chocolate Factor: Chocolate lovers, rejoice - here's a great excuse to enjoy everything from a cup of cocoa to hot fudge. Research now shows hot cocoa has more disease-fighting antioxidants than tea or red wine. In fact, the heat may help propel those health boosting compounds into the bloodstream. The study, which appears in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry finds cocoa has the highest levels of antioxidants, twice as high as red wine, and nearly three times stronger than green tea. Extensive studies have shown that black tea, green tea, red wine, and cocoa are "major" sources of antioxidants called phenols and flavonoids - antioxidant chemicals found naturally in foods that can help prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer. Now you really can say "yes" to a cup of hot chocolate and dollop of hot cocoa fudge - with less guilt!

Cough Cure: If you thought nothing could be better than discovering chocolate is good for your heart -here's a new excuse to break out a bar of Hershey's Dark. A study at the National Heart and Lung Institute in London reveals dark chocolate is better than codeine for suppressing coughs! While codeine was effective at preventing coughs, theobromine, a compound in dark chocolate proved to be 33 percent more effective, preventing coughs for four hours, with no side effects! Dark chocolate can have up to 450 milligrams of theobromine, but milk chocolate has much less.

So how much chocolate should you self-prescribe? Experts say about two ounces for an adult should tame both your cough- and your cravings!

Mood Food: The creamy, sweet taste of chocolate has long been the prescription for a bad mood - but now it seems medical experts agree chocolate really can elevate our moods! It seems the combination of fat, sugar and an endorphin releasing substance called phenylethylamine, raises both serotonin and endorphin levels in the brain. That double dose of feel good compounds banishes our bad moods.

Milk Trick: The cure for lactose intolerance could be as close as your next glass of milk - chocolate, that is. Research conducted at the University of Rhode Island suggests chocolate milk may have surprising benefits for individuals who are lactose intolerant. In a case study, those who consumed chocolate milk showed significant reductions in their symptoms.

Choco-Therapy: Your chocolate of choice's shape and filling as well as how it is wrapped and disposed of, reveals personality clues, says Psychotherapist Murray Langham, author of "Chocolate Therapy: Dare To Discover Your Inner Self." Here are some of his chocolate claims: Love milk chocolate? You, tend to be an innocent person who likes to live in the past. Prefer dark chocolate? You are likely a materialistic, problem solvers who



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

candy bar in the U.S. is Snickers.

*Chocolate was once considered a temptation of the devil.

*It takes 400 cacao beans to make one pound of chocolate.

*The melting point of cocoa butter is just below the human body temperature (98.6 degrees), which is why chocolate literally melts in your mouth.

*Although chocolate is not an aphrodisiac, as the ancient Aztecs believed, chocolate contains phenyl ethylamine (PEA), a natural substance that is reputed to stimulate the same reaction in the body as falling in love. Hence, heartbreak and loneliness are great excuses for chocolate overindulgence.

*Napoleon carried chocolate with him on his military campaigns, and always ate it when he needed quick energy.

*Great Late Chef James Beard used to toss a grating of bitter chocolate into chili to give it body and mellow the flavors.

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Chocolate Fun Facts:

*People who constantly crave chocolate could be deficient in consider adding a magnesium, which is found in chocolate.

*Chocolate syrup was used for blood in the famous shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's movie, Psycho.

*On his fourth voyage to the New World, in 1502, Christopher Columbus was the first European to taste chocolate.

*The average American eats about 11 pounds of chocolate a year.

*The Midwest and the Northeast consume more candy per region than the South, Southwest, West or Mid-Atlantic states.

*Chocolate in a blue wrapper does not sell in Shanghai or Hong Kong because the Chinese associate blue with death.

*The best selling

Grow fruit in containers

Have fun and enjoy picking fresh fruit right outside your door thanks to compact varieties you can grow in containers. Just clear some space on your patio, deck, balcony, or front steps that receives at least six hours of sunlight and get busy planting.

Consider starting with strawberries. They provide seasonal interest with their white flowers, red berries, and brilliant fall color. Day-neutral and everbearing strawberries produce fruit throughout the summer and grow well in strawberry pots, containers, and hanging baskets. Place the containers where you can enjoy their beauty and easily harvest and enjoy a few berries on your cereal, as an afternoon snack, or atop your favorite dessert.

Include a few of the relatively new compact berry bushes suited to containers and small spaces. Raspberry Shortcake grows two to three feet tall and wide and is thornless which makes harvesting a breeze. They produce a bumper crop on new plant

Baby Cakesá blackberry is another thornless space-saving berry plant. Like Raspberry Shortcakeá it grows two to three feet tall and wide and is thornless. The white flowers and tasty fruit that form on old growth make Baby Cakesá a nice addition to any outdoor space.

Grow compact blueberries in pots adding pretty flowers, edible fruit, and great fall color to your patio, deck, or balcony. Blueberries prefer moist, well-drained acidic soil that many of us do not have in our gardens but can provide these ideal conditions when growing in containers. You only need one plant to have fruit but growing two will more than double the harvest.

Use narrow and columnar dwarf apples as a living screen or vertical accent. The Urban Appleá series, Spireá apples, North Poleá, and Sentinel varieties are all suited to growing in containers and small spaces. The trees grow about eight to ten feet tall and only several feet wide. The trunk is loaded with short branches and lots of fruiting



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

spurs for easy harvesting. You will need two different varieties of most apples, including these, for cross-pollination to occur and fruit to develop.

Grow your compact berry bushes in pots 12 to 16 inches in diameter and at least ten inches deep. As the plants grow and mature, move them into larger, 20 to 24 inch containers. Your columnar apples will appreciate a bigger container that is 20 inches wide and deep.

Use pots with drainage holes and fill them with a quality potting mix. Check soil moisture daily and water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are starting to dry. Reduce ongoing maintenance by incorporating an organic moisture-retaining product like Wild Valley Farms wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) into the potting mix. This sustainable product reduces

watering by up to 25 percent and increases air space for healthier growth.

Supplement the nutrients in Wild Valley Farms wool pellets as needed with a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer and eliminate weekly fertilization. Add the slow-release fertilizer soon after planting and again mid-season if needed. Do not fertilize in late summer as that can stimulate late-season growth that can be damaged in winter.

Those gardening in cold climates will need to provide extra winter protection. Insulate the roots by grouping plants together and surrounding them with bales of straw, bags of potting mix, or similar materials. Or move plants to an unheated garage for winter and water whenever the soil is thawed and dry.

Another option is to grow these plants in nursery pots and set them in decorative containers for summer. When winter arrives, move the potted plants out of the decorative containers and sink the nursery pots in a vacant part of the garden. Lift the plants out of the



Melinda Myers

Compact varieties of raspberries and other fruit are well suited to being grown in containers and small spaces.

ground in spring and set them back in their decorative containers for the growing season.

As you master these fruit plants, and if space allows, expand your small-scale orchard to include citrus, figs, dwarf cherries, plums, and peaches. You'll enjoy the flowers, shade and of course the tasty fruit.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest

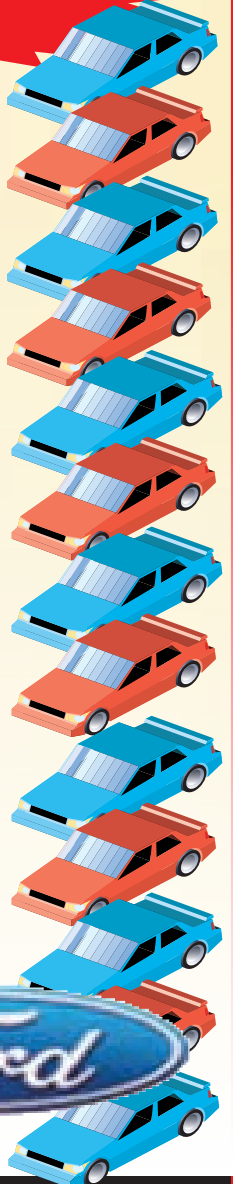
Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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OBITUARIES

John O. Curtis, 87

Brimfield- John O. Curtis, 87, passed away April 3, 2024. He was born on May 1, 1936 in Philadelphia, PA to the late John and Phyllis (Darch) Curtis, and later moved to Pleasant St. in Newton, MA, where John was raised. John graduated from Colby College in Waterville, ME, majoring in Architectural History. After graduating, he briefly worked at Fort Western, a pre-civil war fort, guarding shipping along the Kennebec River in Hallowell, ME.

In 1960, John was hired as Curator of Architecture by the Old Sturbridge Village Museum in Sturbridge, MA, and in 1968, he was promoted to Director of the Curatorial Department. He played an instrumental role in moving many of the buildings to OSV from other locations, including Thompson Bank, the carding mill, and the Asa Knight General Store.

John left the village in the mid to late eighties and worked part time as Curator of History at the Springfield Museum throughout the nineties.

John loved history. He still owned

and drove his very first car, a 1912 Ford Model T, that he bought as a teenager and restored with his dad, though it has not been a daily driver since the 1950's.

John is survived by his loving wife, Susan, married on March 29, 1961; his sons, John and partner Susan, and Ben Curtis; grandsons, Ben and Joe Lawton-Curtis and their mother Heather Lawton; his brother, David and wife Elizabeth Cabral-Curtis; nephews, Nate Cabral-Curtis, and Sam Cabral-Curtis and partner Sinclair Teruzzi; great nephews and great nieces, Theo, Angelo, Caspian, and Leopolda.

A period of visitation will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024 at First Congregational Church in Brimfield from 9:30-11:00am with a funeral service to begin at 11:00am. Burial will immediately follow in Brimfield Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory can be made to the Salvation Army. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Rose Marie Hartman, 76

Charlton Rose Marie (Sandrick) Hartman, 76, passed away on Saturday, March 16th, in her home at The Overlook in Charlton after a short illness.

Her husband of 54 years, Lee W. Hartman, passed away in March, 2023. She leaves her two daughters, Danielle Bennett and her husband Brett of Connecticut, and Jennifer Hartman and her husband David Marble of Massachusetts; her three brothers, Milt Sandrick and his wife Veva of Kansas, Louie Sandrick and his wife Sherry of Michigan, and Fr. Philip "Pat" Sandrick of New York; her sister, Dorothy Furragganan of California; and her two grandchildren, Linnea Bennett and Rowan Marble. She was born in Detroit, MI, the daughter of the late Louis and Katherine (Maslak) Sandrick.

Rose grew up in the nearby suburb of Garden City, the oldest of five. She graduated from Garden City High. Rose met Lee while working together in Detroit, and she soon became a loving wife and mother as she and Lee moved their young family to New England.

After Lee was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Rose remained by his side as his wife, and, over time, a patient caregiver as well. They eventually moved to central MA to be



closer to their grandchildren. Being a grandmother brought her the most joyous moments of her life, and she loved nothing more than being snuggled up next to them sharing a book or looking over their latest artwork.

Rose was cherished for her kindness to all and for the unconditional love she had for her family and friends. As she struggled with health concerns over the last years of her life, health-care staff would often pronounce her their favorite patient, and comment on the outpouring of love and support that surrounded her. It was her simply receiving back what she had put out into the world.

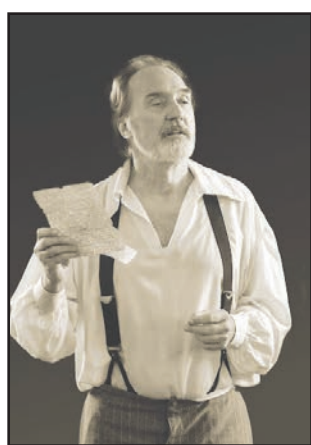
A funeral Mass for Rose will be held on Saturday, April 20th, at 11:00AM in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial in the Fort Devens Post Cemetery, Devens, will be held at the convenience of the family. Calling hours in the Church will be held on Saturday, April 20th, from 10AM to 11AM, prior to the Mass.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to www.heifer.org or www.worldvision.org

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Charlton Public Library, Senior Center present "An Evening with Robert Frost"

CHARLTON — Continuing their celebration of National Poetry Month, Charlton Public Library along with Charlton Senior Center will host "An Evening with Robert Frost" performed by actor Stephen Collins on Thursday, April 26, at 6 p.m. in Dexter Hall Auditorium. The event features a unique, interactive performance that includes a short biographical introduction to the poet's life, followed by a presentation and discussion of several of Frost's popular poems.



Courtesy Stephen Collins as Robert Frost.

reading of Frost's masterful use of blank verse in the hauntingly memorable "The Death of the Hired Man."

Stephen Collins grew up in Cambridge, and received a BA in Literature from UMass Boston. He has taught seminars on Walt Whitman, Thomas Hardy, Shakespeare, and Robert Frost at various locations throughout the

country. He also works as a professionally licensed tour guide doing narrated historical tours of Boston.

Registration is requested by visiting the library event calendar at charltonlibrary.org.

Additional parking is available across Main Street at Town Hall. This event is co-hosted by the Charlton Public Library and the Charlton Senior Center and supported in part by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. It is free, open to the public, and recommended for high school students, college students, and adults.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton.

Ian McGrath of Fiskdale recognized as one of The Citadel's top ROTC cadets

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The Citadel's mission of producing principled leaders is well demonstrated through the ROTC detachments, which provide cadets with the necessary tools to prepare them for their future military careers after graduation.

The departments, which include Air Force/Space Force ROTC, Army ROTC, Marine Corps ROTC and Navy ROTC, ensures The Citadel is one of the nation's proven producers of top military leaders.

Each year, about 30 percent of those graduating from the South Carolina Corps of Cadets earn commissions into all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Annually, the departments nominate their finest cadets and active duty students for awards. Recipients were honored as a group on Thursday, March 28.

Among this year's recipients of the Sons of the American Revolution Award, presented to outstanding Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force cadets based on military excellence and scholarship in their ROTC studies and activities, was Ian P. McGrath, entering the U.S. Marine Corps.

About The Citadel

The Citadel, with its iconic campus located in Charleston, South Carolina, offers a classic military college education for young men and women focused on leadership excellence and academic distinction. The approximately 2,300 members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets are not required to serve in the military, but about one-third of each class earn commissions to become officers in every branch of U.S. military service. Citadel alumni have served the nation, their states and their communi-

ties as principled leaders since 1842. The Citadel Graduate College offers dozens of graduate degree, graduate certificate and evening undergraduate programs in the evening or online. The Citadel has been consecutively named Best Public College in the South by U.S. News & World Report for 13 years and No. 1 Best Public College for Veterans in the South for six years. Learn more about The Citadel here.

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OSV

continued from page 1

fort is acceptable.”

In the 1830s, America was “on the cusp of the ready-made clothing industry,” he added. As time went on, communities saw the first department stores, although their clientele was initially mostly single men.

Often, the fashion advice came from the same places the training in clothes making did – local seamstresses. Beale pointed to Brookfield’s “Aunt Debbie” as an example.

“A lot of thought went into what they’re wearing,” she said. “That was hard to display, since fabrics laid flat often do not really show how they

hung on a person’s body, but they “come to life when on a form.”

They brought a good example of that difficulty with them. Beale said they’ve been trying to find the right way to display a baby boy’s tiny frock coat, one he’d have grown out of very quickly. She noted they’ve considered mocking up a woman carrying him.

That piece is highly unusual, but OSV has several examples of more common children’s clothing. In that era, boys and girls both wore dresses until they were potty-trained and/or dextrous enough to open buttons. At that point, usually age three to five, boys start wearing

trousers, often patched hand-me-downs, while girls graduate into more adult-style dresses. But even the children’s dresses had features common to the fashion for adults, they said.

Heidemann said the book actually focuses on an 1830s family in New Hampshire to show how people varied their wardrobe for more casual and more formal events. It’s OSV’s “first collection-based publication in decades,” and they hope to use it and the collection to promote “immersion through craft.” Among other things, that entails teaching people to make some of the patterns.

In the process, he

said, OSV’s interpreters learned things about their own clothing. They found “the patterns had migrated slowly away from the originals,” often to suit individual wearers or make them easier to wash. Today, the museum tries to balance historical accuracy with looking professional for the visitors, he added.

The Historical Society’s next presentation will be 7 p.m. on May 8, with Frank Morrill talking about Civil War Gen. William Sherman.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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Saturday, April 27 at 1:00pm - 3D FELTED SCULPTURE presented by Pop up Art School. In this beginner’s class, you will learn how to use a barbed needle and merino wool roving to create a cute otter. Needle felting is fun, easy and relaxing. For ages 13+. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL. Registration is required.

World Building Book Group ~ a book group for lovers of science fiction and fantasy - Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30pm. This month’s book is “SLEEPING GIANTS” by Sylvain Neuvel. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

Thursday, April 25 at 6:00pm - LEGO CLUB. Ages 5-12 with an adult caregiver. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL. Registration is required.

Tuesday, April 30 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm - COMMUNITY PUZZLE SWAP. Love puzzles? Come share. Bring your own, take one home. Puzzles of all sizes. Tables will be set up to work cooperatively during this time. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

LEGALS

Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday May 08, 2024, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Christopher McClure, McClure Engineering, Inc. c/o Richard Costa. The Notice of Intent is requesting to install a well to serve the Brimfield Town Hall, the Annex, the Building Complex, and the Public Library.

Project Location: Rear Main Street, Brimfield, MA (Assessor’s Map 13-B-3)
Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on May 08, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn &
Joseph Venezia Co-Chairs
04/10/2024
April 18, 2024

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on April 24, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Chris Hansen.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the construction of a new house, well, driveway, and associated subsurface septic and stormwater systems. The project location is: Hiland Road, Charlton, MA.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjIjMzG1hUGRnYzRkR1c2eT-JTL3iWZz09>

Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
April 18, 2024

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE COLLECTOR OF TAXES

The owners and occupants of the following described parcels of land situated in the Town of Southbridge in Worcester County and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and all other persons are hereby notified that the taxes thereon, severally assessed for the years hereinafter specified, according to the list committed to me as the Collector of Taxes for the Town of Southbridge, by the Board of Assessors of said Town remain unpaid, and that said parcels of land will be taken for the Town of Southbridge on May 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. for the non-payment of said taxes and betterments and the interest, if any, along with all legal costs and charges thereon, unless the same shall be previously discharged.

Michelle L. Hill
Tax Collector
Town of Southbridge

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ASSESSED OWNERS: Ryan R & Kaitlin L Servant c/o Felix R. Garcia
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 18.35

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .060 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 020 PARCEL 020 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 61340 ON PAGE 360 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION Notre Dame Street 020.068..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Tammy Dalterio c/o Scarlett W. Cipro
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 24.68

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .280 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 020 PARCEL 068 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 61475 ON PAGE 27 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 97 Worcester Street 030.053..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Brian Curboy
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 4,638.19

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .600 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 030 PARCEL 053 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 59060 ON PAGE 154 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 20 Brick Row 034.132..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Lynn A & James Hollingworth
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 1,793.22

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .080 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 034 PARCEL 132 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 37756 ON PAGE 0343 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 70 Jennison Street 044.028.A.00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Cajaz Realty Trust - Attn: Donald Cournoyer
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 1,188.26

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .260 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 044 PARCEL 028 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 52653 ON PAGE 0077 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION Crescent Street 047.106..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Erin A. & Thomas E Quinney
c/o Yissel Vargas & Lissette D
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 254.87

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON,

CONTAINING ABOUT .130 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 047 PARCEL 106 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 60851 ON PAGE 165 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 3 Chapin Court 047.130..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: US Bank c/o Lucia D Moore
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 1,993.57

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .040 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 047 PARCEL 130 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 60804 ON PAGE 273 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 28 Orchard Street 048.095..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Lavoie Cooper Celeste
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 850.93

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .360 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 048 PARCEL 095 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 55917 ON PAGE 0111 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 42 Columbus Avenue 053.199..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Alexander L Lesniewski
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 495.59

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .172 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 053 PARCEL 199 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 34096 ON PAGE 0008 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 325 Ashland Avenue #3 061.001..03001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Richard T Diamond
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 262.14

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .00 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 061 PARCEL 001 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 11332 ON PAGE 0215 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 297 Ashland Avenue #16 061.001..16002
ASSESSED OWNERS: Barbara G Diamond
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 270.32

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .00 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 061 PARCEL 001 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 16250 ON PAGE 0168 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION Ridge Road Rear 071.048..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Alyssa A

& Brad Charbonneau - c/o Travis J McDonald
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 203.29

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT 1.50 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 071 PARCEL 048 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 61260 ON PAGE 197 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 54 Ridge Road 076.054..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Richard F Ford
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 3,231.73

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT .370 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 076 PARCEL 054 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 14348 ON PAGE 0204 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

PROPERTY LOCATION 440 North Woodstock Road 082.006..00001
ASSESSED OWNERS: Edwards James Estate - c/o Tammy Ann Fountain
2020-21 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID 60.69

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH ANY BUILDINGS THEREON, CONTAINING ABOUT 54.69 ACRES BEING DESCRIBED AS MAP 082 PARCEL 006 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSORS AND IDENTIFIED IN BOOK 60306 ON PAGE 192 AT THE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

April 18, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

Docket No. WO240236DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY

PUBLICATION AND MAILING

Jessi R. Merchant

vs.

Jason D. Faulker

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

John A Shea, Esq.

Mirick O’Connell

100 Front St

Worcester, MA 01608

your answer, if any, on or before **07/09/2024**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 4, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

April 18, 2024

Trinity Catholic Academy hosts Science Fair

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity students participated in the semi-annual Science Fair last week, showcasing their amazing projects and all their hard work. Although all of the students left the judges in awe of their fantastic experiments, there were a few that took home awards.

Grade 5
1st Place – “What Metal is Best to Use in a Lightbulb?” – Ainsley Heckendorf

2nd Place- “Which Soil Holds the Most Water?” -Emily Legacy

3rd Place- “Do Nitrates and Phosphates Cause an Overgrowth of Algae?” – Evelyn Howard-Donlin



Honorable Mention- “How Does Temperature Affect the Bounce of a Tennis Ball?” – Terra Paradis
Grade 6
1st Place- “How Can Color Affect Memory?”

– Celia Ladd
2nd Place- “Gummy Bear Osmosis?” -Alexio Yacavace
3rd Place- “Water Filtration” -Nicolas Gauvin
Honorable Mention-

“What Cleans Pennies Best?” -Heer Swadia,
“What Stains Show up in UV Light?” -Abigail Frazier, and “Which Liquids Cause Tooth Decay?” -Sophia Gauthier

Grade 7
1st Place- “Vermicomposting: Turning Waste into Gold”- Kertin Smaltz
2nd Place- “The Rube Goldberg” – Sofia Henao

3rd Place- “Do Children or Adults Produce more Electricity?” – Lucas Cournoyer

Honorable Mention- “Does the Amount of Seeds in Fruit Contribute to the Amount of DNA?” -Layla Beu & Lily Nellis, and “Music’s Effect on Athletic Performance” -Anthony Postale & David Gil

Grade 8
1st Place- “Good Vibrations” -Noah Waterhouse

2nd Place- “Which Sports Drink Contains the Most Electrolytes?” -Alivia Gauvin

3rd Place- “Harnessing the Power of the Sun” -Mahlon Paradis
Honorable Mention- “Plants and Liquids” Isabella Lamica

LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
24 SM 001438
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Julie Seelig, Individually and as Personal Representative for the Estate of Sara D Seelig, Heirs, Devisees and/or Legal Representative of the Estate of Sara D Seelig Eric A Seelig and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 et seq.: Bank of America, N.A.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered **7 Woodlawn Drive**, given by Sara D Seelig to Bank of America, N.A., dated April 28, 2017, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57062, Page 134, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **05/27/2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on **4/10/2024**.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
April 18, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 36 Finlay Road, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Al J. Gallant and Nancy P. Gallant to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, FSB, and now held by **Longbridge Financial, LLC**, said mortgage dated July 31, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41608, Page 236, said mortgage was assigned from Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC by assignment dated September 25, 2009 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 44930, Page 169; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC to Longbridge Financial LLC by assignment dated November 9, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68479, Page 279; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on May 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

6 FINLAY ROAD, STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
The land with the buildings thereon, situated in Sturbridge on the easterly side of Finlay

Road, bounded and described as follows: **BEGINNING** at the southerly corner thereof, at an iron pin on the easterly side of Finlay Road at land of Ferdinand J. Szczypien et ux, distant 691.99 feet northerly from an iron pin at the end of a stone wall on the easterly side of Finlay Road at land of George W. Curboy;

THENCE N. 86 deg. 28’ 58” E. by said Szczypien land, 409.10 feet to an iron pin at stone wall at said Curboy land; THENCE N. 6 deg. 17’ 42” W. along wall by said Curboy land, 150.17 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of John S. Finlay; THENCE S. 86 deg. 28’ 58” W. by land now or formerly of John S. Finlay, 401.82 feet to an iron pin on the easterly side of Finlay Road; THENCE S. 3 deg. 31’ 02” E. by the easterly side of Finlay Road, 150 feet to the point of beginning. CONTAINING 1.39 acres, more or less. The premises are shown on plan by Wayne Morse and Donald Murray Surveyors, dated March 4, 1970 and filed with Worcester District Deeds, Plan Book 352, Plan 12. For Grantor’s title see Deed recorded in Book 19548, Page 203.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated January 12, 1998 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 19548, Page 203.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
April 4, 2024
April 11, 2024
April 18, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 50 Randolph Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jonathan Gonzalez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for OCMBC, Inc., and now held by **Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC**, said mortgage dated October 21, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66352, Page 303, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for OCMBC, Inc. to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment dated August 25, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69564, Page 202; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at

Public Auction on May 21, 2024 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon, and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging situated in said Southbridge, on the southerly side of Randolph Street, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin in the ground on the southerly line of Randolph Street at the northeasterly corner thereof and the northwest corner of land of David Calcagni, said pin being situated 50 feet westerly from the westerly line of Lyons Street; THENCE westerly along the southerly line of Randolph Street 50 feet to an iron pin at land formerly of Antaya; THENCE southerly along land formerly of Antaya 85 feet, more or less, to the northwest corner of land now or formerly of Joseph Marinelli et ux; THENCE in an easterly direction along the northerly line of land now or formerly of Joseph Marinelli et ux, 50 feet to an iron pin at land of Calcagni; THENCE northerly by land of Calcagni 85 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

BEING Lot No. 103 as numbered and shown on plan entitled “Plan of Lots for Mrs. A. P. Olney, Southbridge, Mass., made by John A. Whittaker, C.E. dated, August 15, 1901, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 24, Plan 62

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated October 12, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66352, Page 299.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
April 11, 2024
April 18, 2024
April 25, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeanne M. Button and Thomas R. Button to Bank of America, N.A., dated March 4, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38585, Page 379 (the “Mortgage”), as affected by a Release of Liability as to Thomas R. Button, dated May 28, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67681, Page 182 of which mortgage Bank of America, N.A. is the present holder, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises locat-

ed at 140 Paradise Lane, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518 will be sold at a Public Auction at 3:00 PM on April 25, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts shown as lot #36 on a plan of land entitled “Plan of lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts surveyed for J & J Realty, June 6, 1996, Para Land Surveying, Incorporated, Southbridge, Massachusetts, scale 1” = 40’”, said plan being recorded with Worcester District Registry of deed at plan book 705, plan 73, said land being more particularly bounded and described as follows: beginning at the northwest corner of land herein described, at a point on the easterly side of Paradise Lane as shown on said plan; thence S. 69° 03’ 41” E. Along land now or formerly of J & J Realty and Nathan Southwick, a distance of 440.14 feet; thence S. 10° 47’ 29” E. Along land now or formerly of Sturbrook Realty Trust, a distance of 244.50 feet; thence S. 60° 01’ 26” W., along land now or formerly of G. M. N. Inc., a distance of 150 feet; thence N. 47° 00’ 19” W. Along lot 35 as shown on said plan, a distance of 212.03 feet; thence N. 51° 09’ 08” W. Along said lot 35 a distance of 249.10 feet to a point on the easterly side of paradise lane as shown on said plan; thence N. 07° 21’ 43” E. Along said paradise lane a distance of 173.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing an area of 2.7566 acres. Being the same property conveyed to Thomas R. Button and Jeanne M. Button by quit claim deed of Donald W. Garfield recorded 10/16/98 in Book 20539, Page 59, Doc. 152069.

For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20539, Page 59.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier’s or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Bank of America, N.A.
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Button, Jeanne M. Button and Thomas R. Button, 12-009647
April 4, 2024
April 11, 2024
April 18, 2024

Academy Director's artwork included at Charlton Cultural Council Art Show

CHARLTON — The Charlton Cultural Council hosted an art exhibition reception at the Dexter Hall of the Charlton Public Library for the artists and members of the community. In attendance, the photo above shows Michael Wairimu and Evelyn Kiplangat, both of Worcester and members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2024, with the framed artwork of Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Douglas, Academy Director, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.



The Charlton Cultural Council's Art Exhibit runs from April 8 -19th at the Charlton Public Library. Community Artists were invited to submit work with a special call to poets and sculptors. The art show features a wide range of art forms including sculpture, woven crafts, prints, ceramics, a variety of painting styles, and mixed media.

This is Bolandrina's third year participating in the art show, and she said, "Participating in the Art Show is a pleasure! It is unfortunate that I am out of state for the opening but very

much looked forward to the show. I appreciate the team effort of the Charlton Cultural Council and the support of Bay Path Practical Nursing students' attendance." Her submission is called, "Violet Haze," a bricolage of black and white photo decoupage on wood then painted with acrylic in colors and style inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. The four-by-

six piece is framed in a vintage black wood frame with gold gilt rabbit liner.

Kiplangat stated, "I was there and later Michael joined me. It was fun!"

Meanwhile, Wairimu shared, "We went to the arts (bookshelves) section. Next year I will definitely mark my calendar for that day!"



Southbridge Garden Club presents Third Annual Spring Plant Sale

STURBRIDGE — Calling all gardeners, plant enthusiasts and nature lovers! The Southbridge Garden Club invites the general public to its third annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to noon on the Sturbridge Town Common. The sale takes place rain or shine.

The Plant Sale will feature a wide selection of perennials, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, houseplants, cemetery boxes, and a garden treasure table with variety of garden-related items, such as small tools, flowerpots, gloves, decorative garden items, some surprises, and other goodies.

A representative from the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association will conduct free soil testing. The Yankee Dahlia Society will be selling tubers and other items. Other vendors include Missa's Organic Native Garden, the Worcester Conservancy, Eric's Aviaries, the Union Bee Company, and more. Shoppers will be able to browse and purchase one or more books on

gardening, ecology, cooking, and landscaping at the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library Book Sale in Sturbridge.

Proceeds from the Spring Plant Sale support the programs, scholarships, and beautification projects that the Southbridge Garden Club sponsors. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Southbridge Garden Club is a regional organization that welcomes gardeners of all abilities and has been serving the area since 1953. The organization became a member of the Garden Club Federation in Massachusetts in 2003. The Club's mission is to "share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities."

Visit our Facebook page for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeGardenClub>.

For more information, please contact Sally at 508-207-6882.

Pews

continued from page 6

rings are simply touchstones to remind the wearer of all the vows they have made. Likewise, other gifts, even the most thoughtful, are precious not for what they are, but for what they represent.

We all know this simple advice; and yet, how often do those that we appreciate go without our appreciation?

For this reason, I offer this last comment on the gift of writing and letting those you love and admire know that you love and admire them. The act is not only a symbol, but it also clearly articulates the sentiment of the giver and names the feelings. Gifts can be nice, but sometimes we just have to hear the words to know what the feelings are.

In my time of serving at the First Congregational Church of Brimfield,

not become nullified. Instead, the

UCC, I've been amazed by how people respond when they hear and internalize the words that they are beloved children of God, loved just as they are. Tears have a tendency to fall on their cheeks involuntarily. The words deeply touch them. Some acknowledge how rarely they are told how loved they are.

Each of us has this power to touch another's heart when we pick up a pen and paper (or keyboard). Our words of love and appreciation can positively affect a person not only for the moment they receive the message, but for their whole day or week, or even their entire life. It can affect how they go into their next encounter and then then ripple out into the world from there.

Framed in my office (or possibly now in a box ready to be moved), for example, is a note from one of my preaching professors from Andover Newton Theological School, Greg Mobley. The

note that he quickly scrawled on a piece of scrap paper after a sermon I gave in his Preaching Boot Camp class has encouraged me. That simple note from so long ago continues to inspire me and to push me to do better in my calling. He wrote it in probably 60 seconds, but its impact is still felt some 10 years after the fact.

We are inundated by more than enough bad news daily. I wonder what would happen if we set out to change this. I wonder what it might be like if we tried to reduce the bad news by amplifying the good news. What if we all opted to send one note of warm regard to another person each day? What if we tried to highlight the good we have seen in and through the other person? What if we took the time to write something so that one day, when things are going sideways, the receiver might look back to and remember that they are beloved

not just by God, but by others too?

As for me, I am going to take this moment to thank you all for making my time in this community a delight. Thank you to those of you who have stopped me to say you appreciate these columns in the paper. Thank you to all the people at Stonebridge Press and specifically the Sturbridge Villager that work to keep this local paper going so that we as residents can stay connected and knowledgeable about what is going on in our community. Blessings to you all. As the Irish prayer goes, "May the road rise up to meet you. May the sun shine upon your face and may the wind always be at your back."

Rev. Dawn M. Adams' last day at The First Congregational Church of Brimfield, UCC is April 28. She'll begin serving The First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro (NH), UCC on May 19.

Family Dining & Gift Guide

Too Busy to Cook?
 Ask your favorite local restaurant if they offer dine-in or take-out!
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Gus Steeves

The eclipse as it appeared in real time, unfiltered. Note the sun is a little lopsided, but it was still too bright to see the crescent moon. (That's one big plus of digital cameras; they have a screen. There's no way I was looking through the lens for this!)

Eclipse

continued from page 1

fence, some of them with high-tech, astronomical gear. None of the wealthy fliers brought them.

Those hoping to catch the next total eclipse should be ready to go to parts of Greenland, Iceland or Spain on Aug. 12, 2026. Coincidentally, that will also be the peak night for the Perseid meteor shower that year, according to space.com.

The same site notes an annular eclipse (where the moon does not fill the sun's whole circle, creating a "ring of fire" around it) will happen this Oct 2 over southern parts of Chile, Argentina and the Pacific Ocean. That event will create a partial eclipse in a broader swath of the world, including parts of North America.

AJ Strong

continued from page 1

AJ's mother Jamie Congdon works as a teacher, and provide fun for all to help support the family. Winans said the teachers love AJ's spirit and worked quickly to organize an effort to support him after the diagnosis.

"Many of us in the school and the surrounding communities have all been trying to do whatever we can to support them financially. A slew of people in our school put together a fundraiser so it's going to be a family fun day where we will have an organized workout by a fitness professional for older teens and adults, we'll have all sorts of outdoor activities weather permitting, and it will all be geared towards kids to have fun," said Winans. "It's just going to be a great event for our community to bring everybody together and for kids to have a great time. We want to see families come together and support the Congdons."

The event will feature more than 60 raffle items, contests and exercises organized by Dudley and Charlton athletes, food and ice cream trucks, and more. Weather permitting, many of the activities will be outside at Shepherd Hill, but the day is rain or shine with plenty of space inside to enjoy the fun. The event is completely community donated with no overhead cost, meaning every penny earned will help AJ and his family in his fight. Entry into the event will be \$7.30, a tribute to AJ's football number 73. Guests are encouraged to wear green for the day, AJ's favorite color. The fundraiser will take place from noon until 2 p.m. at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Those who can't make the event in person and want to support AJ and his family can donate by searching AJ Congdon Strong on GoFundMe. As of this writing, the campaign has raised over \$76,700 towards the goal of \$85,000.



Gus Steeves

A few hundred people lined up hoping to get eclipse glasses across Sturbridge Common, but the library ran out pretty quickly. Some brought their own, and many were willing to share.



Gus Steeves

Marissa, Lexyn and Westley Cournoyer have a snack while waiting for it to reach peak. (In our area, in only got about 90 percent of the way there. The line of totality ran through Ohio, Vermont and northern Maine. Even in full sun here, the drop in light and temperature during the process was noticeable.)



Gus Steeves

Donna Burritt used filters to focus on the evolving eclipse.



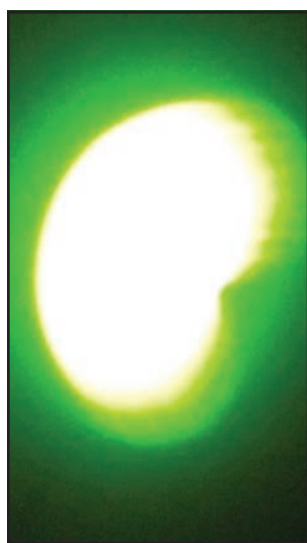
Gus Steeves

Paul Richardson gazes at the solar eclipse fairly early in the moon's crossing of the sun's face.



Gus Steeves

A couple relaxes watching the eclipse.



Gus Steeves

This odd bean shape is what one phase of the eclipse looked like through my camera and two Zeiss filters borrowed from Dick Whitney.



Gus Steeves

One family got creative with their eclipse glasses.



Gus Steeves

A few dogs get in on the community atmosphere.

Council

continued from page 1

He said he dislikes "trying to rewrite the constitution of the town to fix the décor of one person."

To that, Marketti responded, "Are you in favor of letting people talk at meetings or not?"

To George Chenier, "If it happened once, it could happen twice. Doing this bylaw prevents it from happening again."

As it now stands, the proposal might go to full council without a recommendation, although Chair Scott Lazo started the fiscal year saying he wouldn't entertain proposals that didn't get subcommittee approval. If the council decides to act on it, it still needs to have three readings.

On a related issue, the subcommittee is tasking manager Jack Jovan with drafting a policy to require boards to record their meet-

ings on video and audio. That also came up at first as a bylaw proposal, with Montigny saying it's "also something that needs work." Although he acknowledged it's a good thing for major boards "that have powers outside the council's authority," he questioned "Do you really need to force it on the Historical Commission?"

Doau said he likes the concept because some residents want to see more of what's happening. To him, broadcasting such meetings might encourage people to get involved when they see vacancies are open.

In this case, there was no proposed language on the agenda, just a general concept.

Chenier said he'd like to see it apply to all boards, and claimed some have "refused" to do it without specifying whom. In his mind, room assignments should

go through the manager's office, although the discussion later suggested having the town clerk do that.

Jovan said he's willing to look into "the logistics" of doing that. He noted a couple of issues – the fact the Airport Commission meets at the airport, and the Petrelli Room and Parent Room are not wired with cameras. He said he won't wire the latter because it's where council holds executive sessions, and those can't be recorded by law.

At present, most boards meet in rooms with recording devices, but the Historical and Traffic Commissions, Liquor Board, Council on Aging, Recreation and Trails Committees do not. Cable access does have portable cameras for recording in those spaces.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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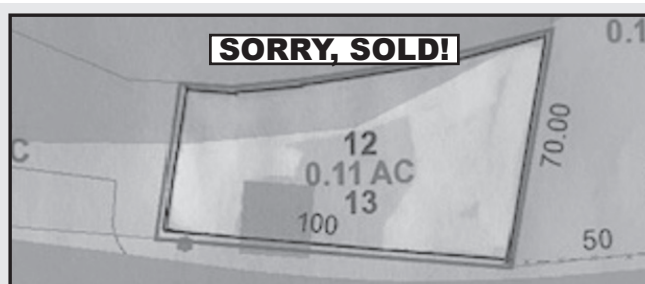
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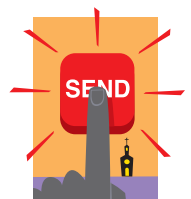
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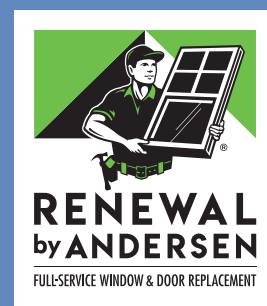
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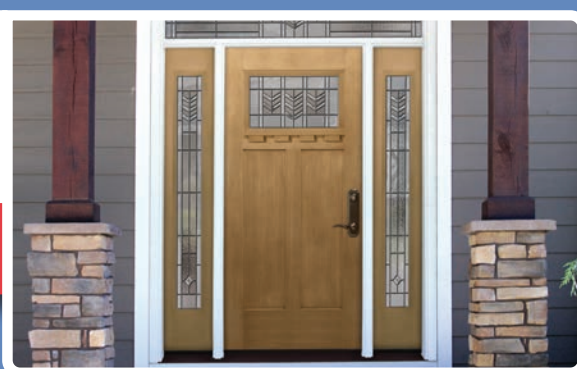
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